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### CLASS Notes

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# CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



January 31, 2012

## Welcome to Georgia Southern University / College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Greetings!

I hope that the new year finds you well. We here at CLASS are excited about 2012 and all of the opportunity it brings. Though we have many new and exciting things planned for the year, we are also excited about the return of some of our favorite annual events. It is with this in mind that I am pleased to announce the return of the Great Minds Lecture Series and the Evening of the Arts.

Now in its third year, the Great Minds Lecture Series features a monthly town-and-gown lecture by a CLASS faculty member during the spring semester. The lectures are held off-campus, and this semester all will take place in the Averitt Center for the Arts in downtown Statesboro.

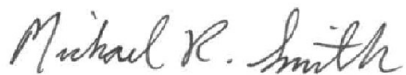
On Feb. 23, Dr. Larry Griffin, CLASS Research Scholar, professor of sociology and history and director of American studies at Georgia Southern, will examine the still controversial issue of slavery during his presentation "Race, Memory and Historical Responsibility: What do Southerners Do with a Difficult Past?" The lecture will begin at 7 p.m., is free to attend and light refreshments will be served.

The Evening of the Arts, the College's premiere annual event to showcase the talents of students in various Arts programs, will be held March 9 on campus at the Center for Art and Theatre. The evening will begin at 7 p.m. with hors 'd'ourves, cocktails, and gallery tours. Guests will then be escorted to the Black Box Theatre and treated to theatre vignettes and a performance by the Southern Chorale. This year, we will also hold a silent auction and proceeds from the event benefit student scholarships.

It would be wonderful to see you at either, or both, of these events. If you would like more information, please contact Andrea Bennett at [abennett@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:abennett@georgiasouthern.edu) or 912-478-8597.

Finally, a friendly reminder to CLASS alumni: We still want to hear about your honors, awards, promotions and successes. Please use the [online alumni survey](#) form to submit your news, or send an email to [class@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:class@georgiasouthern.edu). Your success is important to us!

Until next time,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

## DEPARTMENT OF WRITING AND LINGUISTICS

There is an unfortunate truth that faculty in the Department of Writing and Linguistics must recognize: Many students are frightened of writing. In February, 20 of our majors -- students who enjoy writing -- will learn more about the frightening aspects of writing at a students-only session with an author who can talk with some expertise about frightening writing: Stephen King. As part of his participation in the Savannah Book Festival, which is taking place Feb. 15-19, King will meet with students from sponsoring universities. Because the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Department of Writing and Linguistics are helping to sponsor the festival, our majors will be able to question him about his work and his writing life. They will also be able to hear Bobbie Ann Mason, a contemporary Southern fiction writer whom the Department is also sponsoring.

While the SBF highlights the accomplishments of professional writers, the Department also celebrates the achievements of its students, graduates and faculty. During the fall's College Undergraduate Research Symposium, two majors presented their work: Christopher Hiers (advised by Dr. Lisa Costello) presented on the Rwandan genocide and J.R. Lewis (advised by Professor Laura Valeri) read selections from his novel, *Prelude to Millennium: Tribulation Tide Rising*. In January, Burney Marsh (2009) received his MFA in Creative Writing from Goddard College. And the Beasley sisters, Cassie (2010) and Kate (2011), are attending Vermont College of Fine Arts working on their MFAs. This year two first-year students, Parrish Turner and Taylor Tyson, recipients of two of the highest academic scholarships at Georgia Southern, the Ruffin Scholarship and 1906 Scholar, chose writing and linguistics as their major.

Part of the excitement for students and faculty about writing and linguistics stems from the involvement of the Department with community partners. In October, the Department sponsored Write Place: The Statesboro Writers Festival, which highlighted work by six local writers, two of them Department faculty: Dr. Lori Amy and Eric Nelson. In the summer, Dr. Thomas Klein led a group to the Hog Hammock Public Library in Sapelo Island, Ga., to meet with Waly Faye from the West African Research Center in Dakar, which hosted Georgia Southern faculty during a Title VI Faculty Development Seminar to Senegal in 2010.

Other faculty members are engaged in interesting international research and scholarship: Dr. Costello has been invited to present "Local Testimonies: How Regional Holocaust Museums in the United States Impact the Future of Holocaust Memory" at The Future of Holocaust Testimonies Conference this March in Akko, Israel. Drawing upon her activities as a Fulbright recipient,

Dr. Amy has developed a Study Abroad program to the Balkans, which includes travel to Albania and Greece. Th program offers Georgia Southern students a unique opportunity, for as an Honors Program colleague asked, "Who else has a Study Abroad program to Albania?"

The Department is currently engaged in the process of hiring new faculty: one in professional and technical writing, one in fiction and screenplay writing, and four lecturers. We believe that when these candidates see the work of our students and faculty, they will want to join us as we continue to build a vibrant Department of Writing and Linguistics.

# Department News

## Political Science

Dr. Catherine Marcum, Dr. Adam Bossler and Dr. Michele Covington, members of the justice studies faculty, were awarded a federal grant for a research plan they developed with the Evans County Sheriff's Office. More information can be found [here](#).

## Music

Four students: Shannon Coffman, violin; Nestor Jaenz, oboe; Samuel Cho, cello; and Natasha Martin, piano, were named the winners of the annual Georgia Southern Symphony Concerto Competition. They will perform with the Georgia Southern Symphony, conducted by Maestro Adrian Gnam, at the Catch a Rising Star concert Monday, March 5 at the Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m.

## Alumni News

### *Submitted news*

**Ben Carlton '69** retired from the State of Florida after working as a senior psychologist. He resides in Wauchula, Fla.

**Karen Freeman Watson '72** is the director of online instruction for Fort Valley State University. She resides in Bonaire, Ga.

**Lawrence Ellgass Jr. '77** is the program manager of the Nuclear Power Group for the Tennessee Valley Authority. He resides in Chattanooga, Tenn.

**Victoria Steele Logue '84** recently published her first novel, *Redemption*, through Low Country Press. She resides in Savannah, Ga.

**Cynthia Rodday '95** won first place in the Drawing, Printmaking, Mixed Media, 3D category of the Hudson Arts Alliance 2011 Fall Juried Exhibition for her charcoal drawing. She resides in Maynard, Mass.

**Drew Whelchel '97** is a managing director of the DRW Group and recently became the Colorado representative for Soiree Aerators and Private Preserve wine preservation systems. He resides in Loveland, Colo.

**Jennifer Fordham '98** received *Georgia Trend's* "40 Under 40 – Georgia's Best and Brightest" award. She resides in Statesboro, Ga.

**Laramie Jacobs '09** has completed all required classes and will graduate from Mercer University with an MBA in the spring. He resides in Richmond Hill, Ga.

## Upcoming CLASS Events

### Art

February 1

Artist talk and reception: Resonant Frequencies.

Exhibition runs through Feb. 26.

5 p.m. Center for Art and Theatre

February 9

Artist talk and reception: Sergei Tsvetkov: Recent Work.

Exhibition runs through Feb. 26.

5 p.m. Center for Art and Theatre

### **Writing and Linguistics**

February 1

Willis and Tony Barnstone: Georgia Poetry Circuit

7 p.m. College of Information Technology, room 1004

February 3

Student Success in Writing Conference

Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, Ga.

February 21

Sandra Beasley: a reading

7 p.m. College of Information Technology, room 1004

### **Music**

February 5

Faculty brass and percussion recital

3 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

February 11

Night of Opera

7:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

February 17

GSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony

7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

February 26

Faculty Recital

7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, downtown Statesboro

February 28

GSU Symphonic Wind Orchestra

7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

### **Foreign Languages**

February 9

*Speaking in Tongues*

6 p.m. City Campus, downtown Statesboro

### **Literature and Philosophy**

February 17 and 18

21st annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference  
Desoto Hilton, Savannah, Ga.

### **Psychology**

February 24

Fourth Friday Rural Lecture Series

11:15 a.m. College of Information Technology, room 1004

### **Communication Arts**

February 29 - March 7

*Fuente Ovejuna*

7 p.m. Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre

[Complete Calendar of CLASS Events](#)

## Give to CLASS

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences aspires to be nationally recognized for its superior and innovative educational experiences across the humanities, social sciences, and Arts. Our goal is to provide outstanding programs that are responsive to the needs of the region and to allow all members of the college – faculty, staff and students – to serve together to enhance quality of life. If you would like to support CLASS in meeting these goals, please visit our [annual campaign website](#).

Find all the details about the [Eagle Nation on Parade](#) public art project. Contact Sue Bunning at [sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu) for more information.

## Facebook

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